

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-03 AID-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-04 SS-14

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R 090530Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9897

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6444

E.O. GDS

TAGS: OVIP, AF, US

SUBJECT: USIS BACKGROUND FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND ON USIS KABUL OPERATIONS, FOR SECRETARY'S NOVEMBER 1 VISIT.

2. USIS RESOURCES ARE CONCENTRATED IN FOLLOWING GENERAL PROGRAM AREAS: 1) THE EXPLANATION OF US POLICIES ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES; 2) THE EXPLANATION OF US POLICIES REGARDING AFGHANISTAN'S NON-ALIGNED AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATUS; 3) THE PRESENTATION OF US CULTURE AS A DYNAMIC REFLECTION OF A FREE-ENTERPRISE, OPEN SOCIETY.

3. INFORMATION. THE INFORMATION PROGRAM COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF MEDIA ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PRESS, RADIO, PERIODICALS, PAMPHLETS, EXHIBITIONS, FILMS AND VTR. THE PRESS CONSISTS OF 4 MAJOR DAILIES, 13 PROVINCIAL DAILIES, 2 MAJOR KABUL MAGAZINES AND THREE PROVINCIAL PERIODICALS. THE MAJOR INPUT TO THE PRESS IS THROUGH BAKHTAR, THE GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY. ALL MEDIA ARE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED. THE INDEPENDENT PRESS WAS ABOLISHED IN THE WAKE OF THE 1973 COUP; THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ITS REVIVAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THERE IS NO BROADCAST TV IN KABUL. KABUL UNIVERSITY USES A MODEST CLOSED-CIRCUIT SYSTEM FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. THE MINISTRY OF INFO/CULTURE

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POSSESSES A SMALL AMOUNT OF 1/2-INCH VTR EQUIPMENT WHICH IT

HOPES TO EXPAND FOR UP-COUNTRY,MOBILE TEAM USE. USIS UTILIZES VTR AS A SPECIALIZED PROGRAM ACTIVITY. THERE IS ONE RADIO STATION WHICH BLANKETS KABUL AND MOST OF THE PROVINCES. ALL INFORMATION ACTIVITIES COME UNDER PURVIEW OF AND MUST CONFORM TO PRESS REGULATIONS ISSUED BY GOA FOLLOWING THE COUP. ALL FILMS MUST BE CLEARED BY THE GOA CENSOR.

4. USIS PRESS OPERATIONS. POST ISSUES A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF NEWS, CULTURE, TECHNOLOGY, EXPORT PROMOTION AND VIEWPOINTS FROM THE UNITED STATES. IN KEEPING WITH GOA REGULATIONS, THE BULLETIN IS IN ENGLISH. IN ADDITION, AN INTENSIVE PLACEMENT PROGRAM IS CARRIED OUT IN THE LANGUAGE PRESS VIA TRANSLATED ITEMS--TEXTS, FEATURES AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

5. RADIO OPERATIONS. LIMITED PLACEMENT DUE TO LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE AND STRINGENT CONTROLS.

6. FILMS AND TV. THE POST UTILIZES A SIZEABLE FILM PROGRAM TO ADD VARIETY, INTEREST, AND SOPHISTICATION TO ITS PROGRAM. THE FILM PROGRAM CONSISTS OF: 1) AGENCY FILMS SCHEDULED AT THE CENTER ON A WEEKLY BASIS; 2) A FILMS CIRCULATION LIBRARY; 3) A CLASSIC FILM PROGRAM; 4) REPRESENTATIONAL FILM SHOWINGS BY SENIOR MISSION OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR.

7. CULTURE. LIBRARY PROGRAM. UTILIZES 7,500 VOLUMES ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THEMATIC PROGRAM CATEGORIES. MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS 4,500, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, IMPORTANT ACADEMICS, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND BUSINESSMEN. BECAUSE OF LIMITED FACILITIES IN KABUL, THE AMERICAN CENTER LIBRARY FILLS A SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY FUNCTION, A FACT THAT ENHANCES ITS PROGRAM USEFULNESS.

8. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER AVERAGES OVER 1000 STUDENTS AND PROVIDES A NATURAL MEANS TO INCREASE EXPOSURE JF, AND ACHIEVE THEMATIC REINFORCEMENT WITH, SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM MATERIALS AMONG ESTABLISHED MEMBERS OF PRIMARY TARGET GROUPS. THE PROGRAM IS LARGELY SELF-FINANCING AND IS WIDELY ACCEPTED THROUGHOUT KABUL AS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS AVAILABLE FOR ACQUIRING WHAT IS UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED AS THE MOST ESSENTIAL SECOND LANGUAGE. THE ANNUAL MONG LONG ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEMINAR, HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH KABUL
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UNIVERSITY, AIMS TO UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS. THE PROGRAM ALSO RESULTS IN THE USE OF SIGNIFICANT USIS PROGRAM MATERIAL IN THE UNIVERSITY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PARTICIPATION OF THE SEMINAR MEMBERS IN OTHER MAJOR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES, AND INCREASED MEMBERSHIP AMONG SIGNNIFICANTTARGET GROUPS IN THE LIBRARY.

9. DRAMA PROGRAM. THE AMERICAN CENTER PRODUCES THREE AMERICAN

PLAYS A YEAR IN DARI TRANSLATION.

10. SEMINARS, LECTURES, DISCUSSION. TOPIC PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED MONTHLY IN DARI ON MAJOR THEMES, SUCH AS POPULATION AND FOOD, U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, ECONOMIC POLICY, THE FUTURE OF SPACE, ETC. PROGRAM CONSISTS OF PANEL, WITH MODERATOR, FOLLOWED BY AUDIENCE DISCUSSION. FOCUS PROGRAM, CONDUCTED MONTHLY IN ENGLISH FOR A HIGHLY SELECT AUDIENCE HAS SINGLE EXPERT PRESENTATION, FOLLOWED BY AUDIENCE DISCUSSION. THIS FORMAT IS A PARTICULARLY USEFUL PROGRAM VEHICLE FOR STAGS. USAID BRIEFING: ANOTHER MONTHLY PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS AID OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS PROGRAM MATTERS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THEIR CONTACT GROUPS. SEVERAL SPECIAL SUBJECT ONE-TO-THREE DAY SEMINARS ARE ALSO HELD EACH YEAR.

11. EXCHANGES. ESSENTIALLY FUNDED BY CU, THE EXCHANGES PROGRAM CONTRIBUTES GREATLY TOWARD AFGHAN-AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING. OUR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS (IV) PROGRAM HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN IDENTIFYING RISING LEADERS IN THE AFGHAN SOCIETY AND GIVING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES TO OBSERVE AND CONSULT WITH PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES. FIVE TO SIX IV GRANTEES ARE SENT EACH YEAR. THE AFGHAN-AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION (FULLBRIGHT PROGRAM) CURRENTLY HAS 12 AFGHAN GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE U.S. ON 1-2 YEAR GRANTS; 2 AMERICAN LECTURERS AND 4 STUDENTS IN AFGHANISTAN FOR ONE YEAR; 12 UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH STUDENTS WERE HERE FOR THE SUMMER (PARTIAL CU FUNDING); AND 35 AMERICAN RESERCHERS IN AFGHANISTAN ON VARIOUS PROGRAMS WHICH ARE ASSISTED BY THE COMMISSION. AFGHAN RETURNEES OF THIS PROGRAM FILL IMPORTANT POSTS IN ALMOST EVERY MINISTRY AND UNIVERSITY FACULTY.
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